

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 H-02 IO-13 ACDA-07 /071 W

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R 140712Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4239

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5364

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORN, TU

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL MEETING WITH ECEVIT

1. IN STAFFDEL'S MEETING WITH BULENT ECEVIT, FORMER PRIME MINISTER FOLLOWED BASIC THEMES WITH WHICH DEPARTMENT IS FULLY FAMILIAR. HE DID ELABORATE SLIGHTLY, HOWEVER, ON HIS THEME OF "A NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT," WHAT EMERGED WAS STILL RATHER FUZZY BUT HE BEGAN BY MAKING THE POINT THAT WHILE TURKEY SHOULD STAY IN NATO IT SHOULD NOT HAVE ALL ITS EGGS IN THAT BASKET, IN VIEW OF UNCERTAIN SUPPORT FROM US AND DISAPPOINTING CHARACTER OF EUROPEAN SUPPORT, THE GOT SHOULD ALSO DEVELOP ALTERNATE SINEWS OF DEFENSE RELATIONSHIPS AND SUPPORT. HE SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT TURKEY SHOULD GET AWAY FROM EQUIPMENT STANDARDIZATION BECAUSE THAT HAD TURNED OUT TO BE A TRAP. TURKEY'S ARMED FORCES IN THE FUTURE SHOULD HAVE GREATER VARIETY OF SOURCES FOR ITS ARMAMENT. WHEN STAFFDEL ASKED WHETHER ECEVIT HAD IN MIND TURNING TO ARAB ARMAMENT SOURCES, NOTING THAT THIS WOULD NOT SIT VERY WELL WITH CONGRESSMEN CONSIDERING NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT, ECEVIT HASTILY SAID THAT THE LAST THING HE WANTED WAS TO SEE TURKEY

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GET EMESHED IN THE INTERNECINE QUARRELS OF THE ARAB WORLD.

HE WANTED TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT WAS NOT TO GET CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH ANY ONE OF THEM. FOLLOWING THIS, I ASKED WHETHER HE HAD IN MIND GETTING ARMS FROM THE SOVIET UNION. HE SAID "WHAT I DEFINITELY DO NOT (REPEAT NOT) HAVE IN MIND IS DRIFTING TURKEY FROM ONE BLOC TO ANOTHER." I ASKED FROM WHICH NEW SOURCES DID HE EXPECT TO GET HIS ARMS. HIS RESPONSE WAS THAT THIS WAS A TECHNICAL MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE MILITARY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS NOT VERY SYMPATHETIC TO THE IDEA OF DEVELOPING A DOMESTIC ARMAMENT INDUSTRY. HE FELT THIS WOULD OVERBURDEN THE ECONOMY AND A WEAK ECONOMY COULD IN ITSELF BE A SECURITY LIABILITY.

2. THE ONLY OTHER SUBJECT WHICH HE RAISED, NOT ON HIS USUAL AGENDA, WAS HIS CONCERN THAT THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT WAS NOT PAYING ADEQUATE ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF TURKISH MINORITIES IN GREECE.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA05364
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760271-1024
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760761/aaaacbqa.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STAFFDEL MEETING WITH ECEVIT
TAGS: PFOR, OREP, TU, US, NATO, (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006